Ministry of Law and Justice (Legislative Department), publishing the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Khadi and Village Industries Board Regulation, 1988, together with a statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for not laying simultaneously the Hindi version of the Regulation. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT- 6803/88].

Notification of the Ministry of Commerce

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P R. DAS MUNSHI): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (3) of section 8 of the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, 1947, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Commerce Notification S.O. No. 899(E), dated the 30th September, 1988, amending the Government Notification S.O. No. 352 (E), dated the 30th March, 1988, in the Open General Licence No. 24/88, dated the 30th March, 1988. [Placed in Library. See No. LT- /88).

Statements showing the action taken by Government on the various assurances, promises and undertakings given during the various sessions.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the following statements (in English and Hindi) showing the action taken by Government on the various assurances, promises and undertakings given during the Sessions shown against each:—

(1) Statement No. XVII—Hundred and Thirty-fourth Session, 1985.

(2) Statement No. XXI—Hundred and Thirty-fifth Session, 1985.

(3) Statement No. XVIII—Hundred and Thirty-sixth Session, 1985.

(4) Statement No. XVIII—Hundred and Thirty-seventh Session, 1986.

(5) Statement No. XV—Hundred and Thirty-ninth Session, 1986.

(6) Statement No. XIII—Hundred and Fortieth Session, 1986.

(7) Statement No. XII—Hundred and Forty-first Session, 1987.

(8) Statement No. X—Hundred and Forty-second Session, 1987.

(9) Statement No. IX—Hundred and Forty-third Session, 1987.

(10) Statement No. VII—Hundred and Forty-fourth Session, 1987.

(11) Statement No. V—Hundred and Forty-fifth Session, 1988.

(12) Statement No. III—Hundred and Forty-sixth Session, 1988.

(13) Statement No. II—Hundred and Forty-seventh Session, 1988. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-6576 to 6588/88 for (1) to (13)].

[The Vice-Chairman (Shri Jagesh Desai) in the Chair]

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Delay in introducing Legislation for Electoral Reforms

श्री लाल कृष्ण आडवाणी (मध्य प्रदेश) : मान्यवर, सभापति जी, विगत सत्र में राज्यसभा के प्रश्नोत्तरकाल में एक बार चुनाव सुधार के बारे में काफी चर्चा हुई थी और तब प्रधान मंत्री जी भी थे, विधि मंत्री जी भी थे। सरकार की ओर से कहा गया था कि जितना शीघ्र हो सकेगा हम चुनाव सुधार के बारे में विधेयक सदन में लाएंगे। चूंकि प्रधान मंत्री जी ने सत्र आने से पहले पत्रकारों को कहा था कि संभवत: इसी सत्र में एक व्यापक विधेयक चुनाव सुधार का हम लाएंगे, कोई निश्चित आश्वासन तो नहीं दिया था, लेकिन यह जरूर कहा था कि हमारी तरफ से कोशिश होगी कि इसी सत्र में आ जाय लेकिन निश्चित रूप से नहीं कहा जा सकता। उम्मीद यह थी कि वर्षाकालीन सत्र में न सही लेकिन कम-से-कम शीतकालीन सत्र में इस बात की निश्चित व्यवस्था हो जाएगी यह आशा तब और बलवती

[श्री लाल कृष्ण आडवानी]

हुई जब शीतकालीन सत्र आरंभ होने से दो-तीन सप्ताह पहले तक लगातार कांग्रेस पार्टी ने इस बारे में क्या-क्या सिफारिशें की हैं, क्या-क्या सिफारिशें अमान्य की हैं–इसकी चर्चा बड़े व्यापक रूप से अखबारों में छपती रही। लेकिन अभी-अभी हमारे पास जो बुलेटिन प्राप्त हुआ है विभिन्न विधेयकों का जोकि पहले इंट्रोड्यूस हो चुके हैं, अब पारित होने वाले हैं या जो नए विधेयक इंट्रोड्यूस किए जाने वाले हैं इत्यादि, उन में इसका कोई उल्लेख नहीं है और न कोई संकेत है कि इस मामले में सरकार का चिंतन क्या है। मैं यह मानता हूं कि इस में विचार-विमर्श के लिए कोई बहुत ज्यादा गुंजाइश नहीं रही है। पिछले बीस वर्षों से विचार होता रहा है। संसद की एक समिति ने बड़े व्यापक विचार कर के अपनी सिफारिशें की है। अब जरूरत यदि किसी बात की है तो वह निश्चय करने की है।

All that is needed is the will to implement the electoral reforms.

हम सरकार से जानना चाहेंगे कि इस बारे में उसका विचार क्या है कि इसे इस सत्र में लाने वाले हैं या नहीं? आने वाले चुनाव जब भी आते हैं, आज से साल भर बाद या दो-तीन महीने बाद आते हैं, उन चुनावों से पूर्व जो भी निर्णय इस सदन में होने है उनको क्रियान्वित कर लिया जाएगा या नहीं या हम केवल चुनाव सुधारों की चर्चा ही करते रहेंगे? इस मामले में लोगों द्वारा आलोचना न हो या उन्हें चुप कराने के लिए इक्का-दुक्का बात कर लेंगे, इसके बारे में मुझे आशंका है। उस आशंका को व्यक्त करने के लिए मैंने यह विशेष उल्लेख किया है।

मैं आशा करता हूं कि सरकार इस बारे में सदन को विश्वास में लेगी।

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY (Karnataka): I just want to say one word on this. The Prime Minister seems to have gone on record that the Opposition parties have not sent any proposals regarding electoral reforms. I would say only this much on this occasion: Enough literature has been produced by Opposition parties, not only by Opposition parties, by others, independent organisations. Electoral reforms concern all of us. It cuts across all political parties. It is not a party matter. Therefore, it is rather intriguing to know that some sort of motives are brought in and imputed to Opposition parties. I beg of the Minister, particularly the Prime Minister, to avoid these imputations.

Secondly, I would like the Home Minister who is here now to assure the House whether electoral reforms, comprehensive electoral reforms, will be introduced during this session and whether the Prime Minister is calling us for discussions We are ready for discussions and the proposals are ready and are available I would like to have an assurance from my friend, Shri Buta Singh, here whether electoral reforms will be discussed, whether the Bill will be introduced, whether it is going to be considered and whether the Opposition parties and the leaders in the Opposition parties will be called for discussions.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Yes, Mrs. Bijoya Chakravarty.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Sir, I want an assurance from Mr. Buta Singh.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): It is for him to say. I cannot do anything.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: I just request him. That is all.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): It is for him. If he wants to say something, he can say.

SHRI N. E. BALARAM (Kerala): You can ask him, to say something because this is a controversial thing... (*Interruptions*)...

गृह मंत्री (श्री बूटा सिंह) : उप-सभाध्यक्ष जी, मैं तो केवल इतना ही कह सकता हूं कि गवर्नमेंट की उत्सुकता और गवर्नमेंट का दृढ़ जो फैसला है, बहुत शीघ्र ही, जैसा आडवाणी जी ने गुरुपदस्वामी जी ने कहा है, बहुत शीघ्र ही सदन के सामने गवर्नमेंट आ रही है और विरोध पक्ष के नेताओं को भी, उनसे भी बातचीत करेंगे। **(व्यवधान)**

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Yes, Mrs. Chakravarty.

श्री राम नरेश यादव : (उत्तर प्रदेश) कब आएगा मान्यवर, मैं यह जान सकता हूं? **(व्यवधान)**

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): How can he say? He says that it will come early. That is all. Yes, Mrs. Chakravarty.

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : (बिहार) : एक क्लेरिफिकेशन सर, इन्होंने क्या कहा कि इस सत्र में आ रहा है या इस सदन में आ रहा है, इसको जरा स्पष्ट करा दीजिए। हम और कुछ नहीं चाहते, इन्होंने क्या कहा–सदन कहा या सत्र कहा–इसको जरा स्पष्ट करें।

SHRI CHITTA BASU (West Bengal): I would like to know whether the Bill is being moved this time, during this session.

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री जगेश देसाई) : रिकार्ड में है **(व्यवधान)** मंत्री जी, आप कृपया....

श्री बूटा सिंह : सभापति जी, मैंने कहा अतिशीघ्र इस सदन में आएगा। शीघ्र वह जोड़ देंगे तो शीघ्र-अति-शीघ्र हो जाएगा।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Yes, Mrs. Bijoya Chakravarty.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Sir, I only want to thank him.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Yes, Mrs. Bijoya Chakravarty.

Need for a permanent solution for the problems of Floods and Erosion in Assam

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY (Assam): Sir, I want to make this Special Mention because of the gravity of the situation in Assam. I do not feel it necessary to discuss the whole thing because there have been floods caused by the river, Brahmaputra, during all these years and this year, Opposition leaders led by Mr. Upendra have seen it and the Prime Minister himself has seen it. They have seen that right from Gauhati down to Dhubri, the entire area except Karbi Anglong had been completely submerged and eroded by the mighty river, Brahmaputra. Assam has suffered five successive waves of floods. Everybody knows that there has been loss of life and property and crops have been completely washed away and the Government of Assam has exhausted every possible source to save the people from the fury of the floods.

Sir, what I want to put emphasis on is a permanent solution for the problems of floods and erosion in Assam. During all these forty years after Independence, nothing permanent has been done to control the floods and erosion in Assam. Year after year the flood is coming and eroding most of the districts of Assam and each year the dimension of the flood is greater than in the previous year. Since 1950, there has been a heavy erosion and Dibrugarh, Jorhat, Dhubri Kamrup and Tezpur areas and most of the Kaziranga Park have been affected. In very quick rapids, the course of the Brahmaputra is coming towards the south eroding the vital areas of the important districts of Assam. During the last 2 years the Brahmaputra has been eroding the main points of Jorhat, Dibrugarh and also Guwahati. Sir, to control flood is to control the mighty river Brahmaputra. Government has